

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.

May I add, that when Mark Hymen began his commentaries, I called the local station and also the national (of course to no avail), as I was horrified at the blatant and biased nature of the editorials presented on a new program which should strive for neutral reporting. I have reduced my use of the local station, but now find that I don't even want to watch my favorite evening programs or morning Today show in order to withdraw support for this illegal and dangerous use of our airways.

I am appalled and concerned and I speak for dozens and dozens of people who don't really take the time to comment. I am ashamed of this part of our news industry. Pitiful use of Democracy and freedom. Sincerely, Ilyse Fein